

Application No.: 10/849,889
Art Unit: 3617

Attorney Docket No. 21763.00
Confirmation No. 8585

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 4 and 9, and canceled Claims 4 and 15. Claims 2 and 10 were canceled by the previous amendment.. Claims 1, 3, 5-9 and 11-14 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 9 are independent claims.

In the recent Office Action, the Examiner withdrew the previous indication of allowability and rejected Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 9 11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Baker (U.S. Patent No. 6,517,167). The Examiner indicated that Claims 4-5, 7, 12-13 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims.

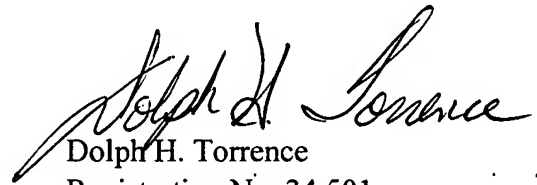
The Examiner's present indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 4. The dependency of Claim 5 has been changed to now depend from Claim –1–. Also, independent Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 15. The incorporated claims have been canceled. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 9, as amended, and corresponding dependent Claims 3, 5-8 and 11-14 are allowable over the prior art of record.

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For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dolph H. Torrence". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dolph" being more prominent.

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DHT:RCL